



ELMCROFT,
AXBRIDGE, R.S.O.,
SOMERSET.

Notes Mr Leches compliments



MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Dr. Leché, medical officer, read his annual report as follows :—

I beg to submit to you my annual report of this district. Area 102,282 acres; population 24,965 (1891), 25,894 (1899). Geology: Limestone, sandstone and conglomerate rocks, peat, marsh and sea shingles in the marshes.

	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Birth rate per 1,000	21.3	22.1	23.4	26.01	23.6	24.4	25.1
living	16.7	15.3	15.8	14.5	17.3	16.5	16.3
Death rate ditto...	.93	0.8	1.03	0.4	0.28	0.52	0.6
Zymotic							
Infant mortality,							

births 121.5 115.4 83.7 101.5 103.8 111.5 8.9

Water Supply.—The South Marsh water supply has been most satisfactory, good in quality, and plentiful even in drought of last summer. A supply for Winscombe is in working progress, and in the other marsh lands water from the rhynes and that collected in pits is the chief supply. Otherwise wells are in common use. *Sewerage and Drainage.*—At Axbridge the main drains have been repaired and re-laid with pipes in several places. At Cheddar the pollution of the river is still under observation. At Worle the eventual outflow of the drainage is into Madam Rhyne, which is much polluted thereby. The filtering beds of the Steam Laundry are improved. The drainage both of Milton and Worle, with their abundant water supply and large washing industry, is a matter for consideration. At Shipham the school drainage has been re-laid. At Cheddar six cases of typhoid were reported in two houses, the well to which was polluted by a syphon having been broken by a plug driven through the wall. The well was closed, the cess-pit to the row of houses arched in, and the overflow diverted in another direction for future safety. Privies and cesspits usually prevail, often draining into the ditches. Scavenging executed individually. Prevalence of diseases (notification in force), 68 cases received: Scarlet fever 15, diphtheria 13, typhoid 8, periperal 1, erysipelas 31. Deaths from zymotic diseases 24: 2 from diphtheria, 9 from whooping cough, 1 from fever, and 12 from diarrhoea. Erysipelas caused 1 death, phthisis 48 (29 occurred in St. Michael's Home), bronchitis, pleurisy and pneumonia 67, heart disease 58, cancer 25. The cases of scarlet fever were scattered and of a mild type. At Congresbury the school was closed owing to epidemic of whooping cough. The diphtheria occurred in isolated cases, unsanitary surroundings being usually the cause. At Banwell, where four cases occurred in one house, it was imported, the water and drainage being good. Typhoid: Six cases occurred at Cheddar, the well being polluted. Infectious Diseases Hospital: None. Disinfection means: Disinfectants supplied free, and fumigation. Dairies, cow sheds, and milk shops inspected; slaughter-houses and bakehouses inspected.

RUARY 24, 1900.

When your town, on the improved sea front scheme being promulgated, agreed to pay to the Pigott Estates £100 per annum, such payment was for the user in perpetuity of such portion of the wastes as the Local Board required for widening their esplanade, and by way of a bonus, the trustees of the estate in question, gave the town, or its representatives, power of attorney to regulate and supervise all, anything and everything, that may from time to time be promoted on the Sands by way of entertainment. The holding of a power of attorney and the granting of any portion of the freehold—as is asked in the present instance—for constructive are two distinct points, and those of your Council who appear to be somewhat impetuously disposed, will do well to consider before they act. At the town's meeting to which I have alluded, I believe a resolution will be submitted asking the Council to reconsider the application of Mr Warwick. My argument is—that without the consent of the representatives of the Pigott Estate, the question may be reconsidered, again and again, by your Council, and they will be as far off as ever before they are in a legal position to give their consent to the so-called “supplementary attraction” that is now being so vigorously advocated by certain parties for obviously certain reasons.

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“What’s in a name?” I think this was a problem propounded by the immortal bard, who follows up the question by asking as another, “Would not a rose by any other name smell as sweet?” Just now there are any number of names before the public, and strange as they may have appeared at first sight, familiarity would seem to have associated with them a certain amount of sweetness, so that names that were decidedly foreign a few week’s since, are now in everyday use, as if one had been accustomed to

